



**Connecticut Department of Labor
Wethersfield, CT**

Project Title	Connecticut IDA Initiative
Contact Information	Phil Karas 200 Folly Brook Blvd. Wethersfield, CT 06109 (860) 263-6593
Grant Amount	\$200,000
Nonfederal Support	\$200,000
Project Period	September 2004 – September 2009
Highlights	<p>The Connecticut Department of Labor, in partnership with the Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA), will expand the existing AFI-supported Connecticut IDA Initiative through a Statewide consortium of Community Action Agencies (CAAs). The Connecticut IDA Initiative will offer 114 IDAs over five years so that participants may save for home purchase, microenterprise, or post-secondary education. The program will match participant savings at a rate of \$1 to \$1 or \$2 to \$1, as determined by each CAA. The CAAs will provide participants with economic literacy training, asset-specific training and services, case management, counseling, and crisis management..</p>
Target Population	<p>Families receiving assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs; low-income individuals with children; and residents of Federal Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Public Housing. The project will focus on low-income areas in the following Connecticut communities: Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, Waterbury, Torrington, Meriden, Norwich, New London, Groton, Stamford, Windham County, Danbury, Bridgeport, Norwalk, and several towns in upper Fairfield and lower New Haven counties.</p>
Grantee/Collaborative Description	<p>The Connecticut Department of Labor is a joint applicant with the Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA). CAFCA, a nonprofit association, is the lead agency of a consortium that consists of ten nonprofit, incorporated Community Action Agencies (CAAs) dedicated to alleviating poverty. The participating CAAs are Action for Bridgeport Community Development (ABCD), The ACCESS Agency, the Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAA-NH), the Community Action Committee of Danbury (CACD), the Community Renewal Team (CRT), CTE, Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now (NEON), New Opportunities, Training, Education and Manpower (TEAM), and the Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA). These agencies will partner with several local banks to provide participant services</p>